loading by rail. In the core sector Power Houses take the highest priority. After meeting their requirement available coal is loaded for other core sector consumers like steel, Fertilizer and Cement plants and then for non-core sector consumers in an equitable manner Railways keep close watch on the coal stocks with all core sector projects including the National Fertilizers Ltd. and in case of distress coal rakes booked to other core sector consumers are also diverted to plant having critical stocks. Subject to the availability of coal, efforts are being made to increase loading by rail for National Fertilizers Limited.

Trained Apprentices

701. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of trained apprentices, who got three years training in various railway workshops in Mumbai (Maharashtra), obtained certificates and absorbed in the Central Western Railways since 1987,

(b) the total number of such trained apprentices, not offered employment so far in the Central/Western Railway since 1987;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto, and

(d) by when these trained apprentices are likely to be offered employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) :

(a)

Trained Apprentices	*Absorbed*
1598	344

(b) 1254.

(c) and (d). Under the Apprentices Act, 1961, it is not obligatory to provide jobs to the apprentices trained in railway establishments These course completed Act Apprentices can apply to the Railway Establishments in response to notifications for recruitment alongwith other candidates. Selection is then made entirely on merit Hence, no target can be given for their appointment

Surplus work Force

702 SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Railways have made a study regarding the surplus work force;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Railways to utilise the surplus work force gain fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). A study on Manpower for Indian Railways was conducted in 1990. Among the important findings of the study are that there is a need to have a rational recruitment and training policy for improving the productivity of staff. The study also identifies redundancies and envisages redeployment of surplus staff for new activities of expanding activity centres and cost control.

(c) The staff rendered surplus are redeployed to new activity centres after giving them training, wherever necessary. The redeployment of surplus staff is given the highest priority and their absorption has precedence over all other modes of recruitments.

Inquiries against Officers of NDMC

703. SHRI B L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether CBI inquiries are being conducted and FIRs have been filed in the courts against some officers of the NDMC on the charges of corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of the officers involved and the number of them suspended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Three cases against the officials of the NDMC are under investigation by the CBI at present. These cases are :-

(i) RC 74 (A)/95-DLI u/s 13(2) r/w 13(1) (e) of PC Act, 1988

(ii) RC 82 (A)/95-DLI u/s 120B r/w 420, 468, 471 IPC and 13(1) (d) r/w 13(2) PC Act, 1988 and substantive offences

(iii) RC 109 (A)/95-DLI u/s 120 B IPC r/w section 420 IPC and section 420, 467, 468 and 471 IPC

(c) In all eight officials are involved in these cases. One of them is under suspension.

[Translation]

Electrification of Line

704. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the rail lines under Ratlam Rail Division of Western Railway for electrification for which the Central Government has given approval upto May 1995,

(b) the names of the rail lines electrified under electrification upto May, 1996,

(c) the targeted dates for completion of the said approved works,

(d) whether the electrification of Indore-Ujjain line and Ujjain-Bhopal line would be completed during, 1996-97, and

(e) if not, by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) to (c).The names of the rail lines under Ratlam division of Western Railway that were approved for electrification are : (i) Godhra-Ratlam line and (ii) Nagda-Ujjain-Bhopal line. These lines were electrified prior to May, 1996

(d) and (e). The electrification work of Indore-Ujjain line has not been sanctioned Ujjain-Bhopal line which is part of Nagda-Bhopal line has already been electrified

[English]

Link Kakinada with Main Line

705 SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to link Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh with the main line from Calcutta to Madras and Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the time limit for completion of the project, and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) . (a) There is no such proposal at present

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Untrained Computer Staff

706 SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that staff at various computer counters in Northern Railway particularly on Rai Bareilly Railway station is untrained.

(b) if so reasons for posting of untrained staff at the computer counters, and

(c) the steps are being taken to post trained staff at computer counters and to train the untrained staff in computerisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) The reservation staff at Rai Bareilly and other stations on the Northern Railway are trained for manning computerised reservation counters

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Destruction of Forest

707 DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Jangalon Per is Bar Aag Ka Nahin, Bibhag Ka Keher" appearing, in the *Navbharat Times*, dated June 22, 1996;

(b) whether it is a fact that illegal felling and smuggling of tree in hills of Uttar Pradesh is being done with the help of Forest Department;

(c) if so, the details in this regard,

(d) whether the Government initiated a Central level inquiry in the matter of destruction of forest in U.P. Himalayas;

(e) if so, when, and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) No, Sir However, an enquiry has been ordered by the State Government into the alleged irregularities in the lots of the Forest Corporation referred to in the news item appearing in the *Navbharat Times* dated June 22, 1996

(d) No, Sir

(e) Does not arise

(f) Since the matter is being enquired into by the State Government.

Stoppage at new Bongaigaon

708. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is not a single stoppage of the Rajdhani Express in the seven North-Eastern States except the one at Guwahati, where the train terminates.

(b) if so whether the Government propose to provide at least one stoppage at New Bongaigaon for the benefit of the large number of passengers of the North-Eastern states, and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) and (b) It already stops at New Bongaigaon

(c) Does not arise

Railway Project in West Bengal

709 SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA . Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the progress of the Railway Projects from Bargachis to Amta and Bargachia to Champadanga via Jangipara (West Bengal) initiated by the Railway Ministry in 1984; and